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TELIDON REPORTS

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BROADCAST TELIDON

On January 11, 1980, Bob Fitzgerald of the Department of Communications Research Centre aided by members of OCEA's Technical Services staff, completed the installation of necessary components for the Broadcast Telidon Field Trial. Telidon was successfully carried throughout the province on lines 15 and 16 of the vertical blanking interval of TV Ontario's television signal. Judging by the first public display of the new technology at the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers conference held at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto February 1-2, vivid and reliable reception of text and colour graphics can be expected of the system. For the first weeks of transmission, a limited but varied magazine of approximately 40 pages will be carried.

TELIDON VIA SATELLITE

Another test in March saw Broadcast Telidon signals inserted in the vertical blanking interval of OECA television signals successfully transmitted and received over the 12 GHz Anik B satellite link. Reception via the 1.2 and 1.8 metre dish antennas located at the DOC Communications Research Centre, was obtained when satellite transmissions were oriented toward the receiving site. When transmissions were directed towards Manitoba instead of Ottawa, successful reception was obtained using the 9-metre antenna.

REPORT FROM OECA

The Ontario Educational Communications Authority (OECA), also known as TV Ontario, is involved in the Telidon field trials. OECA is operating a broadcast field trial and is involved in an interactive field trial.

Telidon user terminals are being installed throughout the province of Ontario. So far terminals have been installed in 6 cities, 11 elementary and secondary schools, 7 universities, 4 colleges, and 3 public libraries. By September, 50 terminals will be in place.

Contents

La version française de ce bulletin peut être obtenue auprès de TELIDON du MDC pièce 2000, Tour Journal Sud, 300, rue Slater, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1A 0C8.

This newsletter is available upon request from TELIDON, Room 2000 Journal Tower South, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1A 0C8.

OECA's Special Project Telidon and Education issues an information release irregularly entitled: Telidon and Education Update which is available from:-
Maria Cioni (416) 484-2931
The Ontario Educational Communications Authority
2180 Yonge St. Rm. 603
Toronto M4S 2C1

REPORT FROM REGIONAL OFFICES

DOC has regional offices in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Moncton. All are supporting Telidon activities, mainly by giving demonstrations to local, regional, provincial, and sometimes national groups. Although the regional offices have recieved no additional resources the staff have been working miracles. Some of their activities follow.

The Regional Office in Vancouver has been busy with demos to personnel from Canadian Forest Products, the Coast Guard, Canada Post, the CBC, and Statistics Canada as well as a group of cable TV operators.

The Regional Office in Toronto demonstrated Telidon to personnel from the Ministry of Education, Loyalist College, CBC, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Revenue Canada and to those in attendance at the Canadian Computer Show, and the Data '80 Conference and Trade Show.

A series of demonstrations to introduce Telidon in the Atlantic Region have been very successful. Presentations have been given in Moncton, Fredericton, Charlottetown and St. John's over the winter months. The demonstrations extended over a period of 3 to 4 days in each location. The first day was reserved for set-up and demonstrations to the press (newspaper, radio, TV, CATV, etc.) in both official languages when required. On the second and third days demonstrations were held for invited officials. The invitation list included Provincial Deputy Ministers and their officials, educational authorities, libraries, publication houses, telephone companies, interested provincial commissions or agencies and media executives.

The Atlantic Regional Office has also responded to special requests, and demonstrations were given to the Board of Directors of NB Tel., now a participating company in a Telidon field trial, the Professional Engineering Association of P.E.I., and to the Regional Directors of Emergency Planning Canada. Telidon was present at a "Communications for the Future" seminar sponsored by the Society of Acadians of New Brunswick in January, 1980 and was a very popular attraction at the Université de Moncton science open house. A demonstration was also given at the Symposium on Electronics in the 80's at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

REPORT FROM THE USA

A major Telidon Awareness Program, which is playing an important role in Telidon's acceptance, is already in progress as symposia have been given in two of the four selected American cities. Telidon demonstrations were held in San Francisco (February 25-29) and New York (March 20 - April 9) and are scheduled for Dallas and Chicago on May 19-23 and July 17-25 respectively. This series of symposia correspond with major Electronics and Communications trade shows and exhibits

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occuring in the same cities.

The choice of cities was based on the geographical concentration of major electronics, telephone, cable, broadcasting and newspaper companies in the United States and will allow Telidon to be presented to the maximum number of important companies within time and budgetary allowances.

The Telidon awareness program was planned with the three following objectives in mind: to raise the consciousness of senior executives and high level officials making decisions on videotex selection, to support promotion of Telidon-like videotex standards, and to encourage Telidon field trials by cable and telephone companies.

CVCC MEETS AGAIN

The second meeting of the Canadian Videotex Consultative Committee (CVCC) was held in Ottawa at the Government Conference Centre on April 1st and 2nd, 1980.

The Committee decided:

- to strongly endorse the present Telidon Program and to endorse in principle the granting of more funds to DOC to continue and increase Telidon activities, especially to develop a VLSI version of a terminal, and to encourage the government itself to use Telidon and to have equipment built;

- to support a request to proceed with work on equipment and testing for captioning for the deaf;

- to support a request for funds ($60,000) to permit the Individual and Society Sub-Committee to carry out its mandate;

- to request DOC to produce a set of operating characteristics to ensure compatibility between systems;

- to support the holding of a large videotex conference in Canada;

- to hold the next meeting in June.

D.F. Parkhill, Assistant Deputy Minister Research, Department of Communications (DOC), chairman of the CVCC spoke about the recent successes of Telidon, nationally and internationally.

John Smirle, DOC, reported on some international activities related to Telidon in Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Spain, Australia, USA, and at NATO.

John Davidson, DOC, reported considerable interest within the federal government: Atmospheric Environment Services (weather people), Task Force on Service to the Public, CBC, Energy, Mines and Resources and others are investigating Telidon.

Ross Brown, (Teledirect, substituting for G. Haslam) reported that Videotex Information Service Provider Association of Canada (VISPAC): now has over 25 members; is setting up sub-committees; is issuing a newsletter; is inviting field trial systems operators to join VISPAC (J. Fraser, Bell indicated Bell Canada would probably join).

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Martin Fournier, DOC, reported on Viewdata '80 - a recent international videotex conference in London: that clearly videotex is now a growing industrial/business activity; that competition is intense, and Canada has much to do.

R. Jauvin, Télécâble-Vidéotron, reported that soon there would be an announcement about a major joint Télécâble-Vidéotron /DOC effort in investigating the potential of Telidon and Cable TV.

Reports were received from the five recently established sub-committees:

- Marketing, D. Cunningham (Gandalf);
- Standards, R.M. Bennet (DOC);
- Educational, J. Syrette (for P. Bowers) (OECA);
- Individual and Society, A. Cameron (University of New Brunswick);
- Legal, G. Fierheller, (Premier Cablevision).

Those in attendance included thirty representatives from the private and public sector - broadcasting, cable, telecommunications, manufacturing, consumers, publishing, government unions.

CANADA AND FRANCE

Canada and France have signed a research agreement on videotex. The agreement, a Memorandum of Understanding, relates to research concerning common problems associated with videotex system design. This Memorandum will increase co-operation between the two countries at the research, rather than at the commercial level. Signatories to the Memorandum on behalf of the two countries are the Canadian Department of Communications and the French Secretariat d'Etat aux Postes et Télécommunications, as well as Télédiffusion de France, the French government broadcasting agency. For further information contact: John Smirle, Telidon, Room 2000, Journal Tower South, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa K1A 0C8 (613) 996-4243.

BRIEFLY

Norpak Ltd, a manufacturer of Telidon user terminals, announced a terminal price reduction of approximately $1000 resulting in a selling price of $1200 in quantity of 1000. This is a significant break-through which will have an impact in the U.S.A. and Europe.

B.C. Telephone is the latest organization to undertake a Telidon field trial in cooperation with DOC. Their field trial will address the business/ office market sector and will include 150 Telidon terminals. Microtel Pacific Research Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of B.C. Tel) will be actively involved.

Telidon and NATAL. For some years the National Research Council (NRC) has been working on a computer language, NATAL, for highly interactive sequences. An interface has been written that enables a Telidon terminal to access NATAL.

Manitoba Telephone System expects to test Telidon in June - which will make it the second Telidon field trial off the mark.